



CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION

By virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE WEEK

WHEREAS, agriculture is Virginia's largest industry, generating approximately 12.3 percent of all sales in Virginia, contributing approximately \$19.5 billion annually to the gross state product and creating nearly 10 percent of the total jobs statewide; and

WHEREAS, Virginia's 46,800 farms encompass 8.5 million acres, or approximately one-third of Virginia's total land area, and produce a diverse mix including field and orchard crops, dairy products, livestock, poultry, seafood and farm-raised fish, horticultural products, tobacco, wine, cotton, nursery stock, horses, lumber and processed food; and

WHEREAS, when ranked with other states, Virginia agriculture boasts ten crops in the top ten based on production, including fresh market tomatoes ranked #3, tobacco #5, apples and summer potatoes both #6, fresh market snap beans #7, grapes and peanuts both #8, sweet potatoes #9, barley and fresh market cucumbers both #10; and

WHEREAS, based on livestock production, Virginia turkeys represent 8.21 percent of the total U.S. output and rank #4 when compared to other states, and Virginia broilers represent 2.88 percent of the total U.S. production and rank #10 when compared to other states; and

WHEREAS, the direct marketing of locally grown Virginia farm products at roadside stands, farmers markets and pick-your-own farms has given small-scale and beginning farmers an initial sales outlet, helped support local farmers, enhanced local economies, and given consumers better access to fresh, delicious and nutritious foods; and

WHEREAS, besides selling to domestic markets, Virginia agriculture has achieved an international reputation, exporting a variety of products including grain, fruit, livestock, poultry, tobacco and feed to markets in Europe, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East, Canada, Africa and the Caribbean, to meet the demand for high-quality commodities:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Timothy M. Kaine, do hereby recognize March 16-22, 2008, as **VIRGINIA AGRICULTURE WEEK** in the **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Timothy M. Kaine in black ink.

Governor

A stylized, handwritten signature of Katherine F. Hanley in black ink.

Secretary of the Commonwealth